

Lesson
3

Object Pronouns

Teaching

Object pronouns are personal pronouns used as direct objects, as indirect objects, or as the objects of prepositions.

Object Pronouns

Singular	Plural
me	us
you	you
him, her, it	them

As a **direct object**, the pronoun receives the action of a verb and answers the question *whom* or *what*. As an **indirect object**, the pronoun tells *to whom* or *what* or *for whom* or *what* an action is performed. As an **object of a preposition**, the pronoun follows a preposition such as *to*, *from*, *for*, *against*, *by*, *between*, or *about*.

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|---------------------------|---|
| Direct object | The workhouse chefs made soup, and Oliver Twist thanked <u>them</u> . (Whom did he thank? them) |
| Indirect object | The server had the soup, and Oliver gave <u>her</u> his empty bowl. (To whom did he give his empty bowl? her) |
| Object of the preposition | The chef didn't give any more to <u>him</u> . |

A. Identifying Object Pronouns

Underline all the object pronouns in the following sentences.

1. Oliver Twist, a character in Charles Dickens's novel, didn't have any parents; you could call him an orphan.
2. His workhouse, the place where he lived, treated him badly.
3. Because of the horrid conditions at the workhouse, he ran away from it.
4. He met a man named Fagin who promised him a place to live.
5. Fagin took care of other boys as well, but in return, he expected them to steal.
6. Oliver got caught stealing, but the end of the book will surprise you.

B. Using Object Pronouns

Underline the correct pronoun to complete each sentence.

1. David Copperfield's mother dies, and she leaves (him, he) with a cruel stepfather.
2. The stepfather knows of a shabby workhouse and sends the boy to (them, it).
3. Later Mr. Micawber gives (he, him) a home, but Mr. Micawber is soon imprisoned for debt.
4. David has an aunt and eventually goes to live with (she, her).
5. If you look at the lives of Charles Dickens and the fictional David Copperfield, you will see the similarities between (them, him).
6. Dickens's father's imprisonment for debt forced (he, him) to labor in a workhouse.

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More Practice

A. Using Object Pronouns

In each sentence, underline the pronoun that completes each sentence correctly.

1. Ebenezer Scrooge was a crabby old man who had one clerk working for (him, he).
2. Scrooge owned a money-changing house, and therefore many people owed (he, him) money.
3. No matter what the circumstances, Scrooge was never nice or generous to (them, it) about paying the money back.
4. One night the ghost of his dead partner comes to see (him, he).
5. Scrooge sees the ghost but doesn't want to believe (it, them).
6. His dead partner warns (him, he) that he has to change his ways.
7. The ghost of Christmas Past arrives, and Scrooge goes with (she, it) to his youth.
8. The ghost of Christmas Present shows (he, him) his less fortunate clerk's family.
9. Scrooge watches (him, them) celebrate Christmas, even though they are poor.
10. The ghost of Christmas Future presents (he, him) with the shadows of what may yet come.
11. When he wakes up, Scrooge goes to the clerk's family and brings presents and food to (her, them) because, as he says, "The spirits have changed (I, me)."
12. Every year people tell this story; it reminds (they, them) about their responsibility to help their neighbors.

B. Choosing Object Pronouns

Fill in the blanks in the following sentences with appropriate object pronouns. Vary the pronouns you use, and do not use the pronoun *you*.

1. That much exercise really tires _____.
2. Tell _____ about your recent good fortune.
3. The tour guide showed _____ around the White House.
4. My brother gave _____ his binoculars.
5. We grilled hamburgers for _____.
6. Are you going with _____ to the recycling center?
7. Remind _____ that we are eating dinner early.

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Application

A. Proofreading

The following story contains several errors in the use of object pronouns. When you find a pronoun used incorrectly, cross it out. Then insert this proofreading symbol ↖ and write the correct pronoun above it.

Charles Dickens wrote *Great Expectations*, the story of a poor boy named Pip. One day Miss Havisham, a strange, rich woman, calls he to her house. She takes care of a beautiful girl named Estella, and she wants Pip to play with she. He visits them throughout his childhood. However, they don't treat him very well. Surprisingly, when Pip becomes old enough, he inherits a great deal of money. Because Miss Havisham is the only rich person he knows, he assumes the money came from she. He becomes a proper gentleman in London, and the rest of the book shows he in his new lifestyle. Later, he learns that his money came from an escaped convict he helped when he was younger. Pip had helped the convict only because he had been afraid of he. Read the classic story to find out what happens next.

B. Using Object Pronouns in Writing

Think about a character, real or fictional, whom you admire. How does that person show the qualities you admire most? Write a short description of a real or imaginary meeting with him or her. Use at least four object pronouns in your paragraph.

[illegible]